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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Fabian W. Gibson
Serial No.: 10/628,313
Filed: 07/28/2003
For: TIMING BELT AUTOTENSIONER WITH AN ANTI-TOOTH SKIP MECHANISM

September 7, 2005
Art Unit: 3682
Examiner: Vicky A. Johnson

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S ACTION DATED APRIL 7, 2005

Sir:

In response to the examiner's action, the Remarks are on the attached page.

Respectfully submitted,

FABIAN W. GIBSON

By James M. Deimen

James M. Deimen, #25504
320 N. Main Street, Suite 300
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1192
Phone: (734) 994-5947
Fax: (734) 769-2702

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REMARKS

Claims 1-17 have been rejected as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. 112, written description requirement. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following considerations.

The numerical values attendant to the angle between the tip 132 and teeth surfaces 134 in FIG. 2a are design considerations specific to a belt and pulley combination for a specific engine. Parameters, such as surface finish on the tip 132 and teeth surfaces 134, width (perpendicular to the drawing) and height of the teeth, compliance of the housing and average radius through the teeth of the ratchet wheel 42, all can come into play in making a specific design. Admittedly, the numerical values of these parameters are judgment calls on the part of an experienced engine design or clutch engineer when developing a new engine design or applying this invention to an existing engine. These parameters will, in large part, be different for large slow-rotation engines in contrast with small high-speed engines of the same horsepower, for example. Thus, specific numerical values were not provided in the application, but nevertheless the disclosure is believed adequate to meet the written description requirement of the statute.